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SUBJECT: DAILY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE PRESS 10/15/07-2

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(14) Pentagon Defense Science Board chairman: Discontinuation of refueling operation might adversely affect US-Japan alliance, raising questions about Japan's credibility

MAINICHI (Page 6) (Abridged slightly)
October 14, 2007

Toshihiko Kawahara, Washington

Pentagon Defense Science Board Chairman William Schneider, in an interview with the Mainichi Shimbun on Oct. 10, indicated that the question of continuing the Maritime Self-Defense Force's refueling operation in the Indian Ocean might adversely affect the US-Japan alliance, saying, "Japan's credibility will be questioned if it cannot continue the refueling operation, a low-risk mission." The official also indicated that Tokyo's failure to extend the operation would dampen the United States' support for Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

Chairman Schneider first hailed the refueling operation as a product of major political change in Japan since the 1999 Guidelines for Japan-US Defense Cooperation. Regarding the ongoing deliberations at the Japanese Diet, he also explained the United States' viewpoint this way: "The question is whether this change is long-term or limited to an age of some political leaders."

Additionally, regarding a possible impact on the US-Japan alliance by this matter, he took this view: "If Japan cannot continue the modest refueling operation, what can it continue? Although the United States, Japan, and Australia have been searching for a new trilateral alliance of the 21st century, the matter makes (the two countries) wonder how Japan can contribute to it." The message is that the reliability of a partner is essential in planning a long-term security strategy. He also indicated that drawing a clear line would make relations with other countries difficult in terms of operations, saying: "The United States can guarantee that Japanese oil was not used for operations in Iraq. At the same time, in the event a carrier-borne E2 (early warning aircraft) detects Iraq-related information in the Indian Ocean, the US cannot rule out the possibility of it transmitting the information to a combat area in Iraq."

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He also raised a question about Japan's bid for a permanent UNSC seat, noting: "If it is difficult for Japan to accept a security role, is there any need for the country to become a permanent member?"

Schneider served as Under Secretary of State in the Reagan administration. Cultivating close ties to Japan through the missile defense program, he is known as a Japan expert.

(15) Records tell of MSDF refueling operation as act of assistance for America's war

AKAHATA (Page 2) (Abridged slightly)
October 13, 2007

Akira Sakaguchi

The government has repeatedly explained that the Maritime Self-Defense Force's operation to refuel foreign vessels in the Indian Ocean is not assisting America's war, likening it to such policing operations as the maritime interdiction operations (MIO) to crack down on terrorists, funds, weaponry, and drugs at sea. On Oct. 9, the Nikkei carried Tokyo University Professor Akira Kotera's article saying that conducting policing operations is allowed under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and that providing fuel to vessels participating in such operations is also allowed based on the decision of each country irrespective of the existence of a UN Security Council resolution. His argument is totally divorced from reality.

About 80 PERCENT of MSDF oil has gone to US warships. What the US military has been doing is clear from the Akahata's Oct. 11 article that discussed activities of the assault landing ship, USS Iwo Jima.

The Iwo Jima-led expeditionary strike group took part in an operation in the Middle East for the six months from June 2006. During that period, the strike group actually joined Israel's attack on Lebanon to rescue US nationals and air strikes on Afghanistan (part of Operation Enduring Freedom) and the Iraq war (Operation

Iraqi Freedom).

As was discussed in the US Department of Defense's Defend America News dated Dec. 8, 2006, the strike group's main mission was to directly assist OEF and OIF.

What the Iwo Jima did is not an isolated case. There were some other cases in which MSDF-refueled US warships took part in the Iraq war. Kotera's argument that the MSDF has not refueled foreign warships as part of military action is totally groundless.

On Oct. 2, the government released a position paper saying that it is not in a position of knowing the subsequent activities of foreign vessels after they are refueled by the MSDF. But the main activities of the Iwo Jima are easily available through information released by the US military. Even in view of the Antiterrorism Special Measures Law limiting Japanese oil to vessels taking part in the operations in Afghanistan, the government is required to examine the refueling operation and immediately halt any acts deviating from the law.

The US military has been using MSO (maritime security operations), a
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broad term, rather than MIO. By this logic, the Iwo Jima-led expeditionary strike group's acts last year can be defined as assistance for MSO. In fact, almost all naval activities can come under MSO by this logic. We must remain on high alert so that the government will not replace MIO with MSO in an attempt to justify the MSDF's assistance for America's war.

(16) Sea-based missile defense system to undergo 1st test in December

ASAHI (Page 1) (Full)
October 13, 2007

The Kongo, an Aegis-equipped ship of the Maritime Self-Defense Force, has now completed its renovation with the Standard Missile 3 (SM-3) mounted for ballistic missile defense (BMD) and will carry out its first intercept test in waters off Hawaii in mid-December, the Defense Ministry announced yesterday. The Kongo is expected to be redeployed in early January next year. For its BMD shield, Japan already started in March this year to deploy the Patriot Advanced Capability 3 (PAC-3), a ground-to-air guided missile defense system. However, this is the first time for Japan to deploy an Aegis ship with SM-3 missiles onboard.

The US Navy will cooperate with the MSDF in its planned intercept test. An intermediate-range ballistic missile will be launched from Kauai Island, Hawaii. The Kongo will be staged in waters situated several hundred kilometers away from Hawaii to detect the missile with its radar and launch an SM-3 missile to shoot down the missile at an altitude of over 100 km in outer space.

After the test, the Kongo will return to the MSDF's Sasebo base in the city of Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture, for deployment.

According to the Defense Ministry, a lineup of two or three Aegis ships can shield Japan entirely with their BMD system. If they miss a launched missile, the ground-based PAC-3 system is to intercept it. The MSDF will deploy four Aegis ships with the SM-3 onboard by the end of fiscal 2011. Meanwhile, the Air Self-Defense Force has already deployed the PAC-3 at its Iruma base in Saitama Prefecture. In addition, the ASDF is going to deploy PAC-3 batteries at a total of 16 air defense missile units in the metropolitan area and other areas to cover Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, and Kobe by the end of fiscal 2010.

(17) DPJ likely to call in Upper House for right to investigate alleged diversion of Japanese oil for use in Iraq war

YOMIURI (Page 4) (Full)
October 14, 2007

The stage for a verbal battle between the ruling and opposition parties will move to the House of Councillors' Budget Committee

tomorrow. The Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) is poised to attack the ruling camp in the Upper House over the alleged diversion of fuel supplied by the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) to United States warships in the Indian Ocean for use in the Iraq war. The government and the ruling camp will try to find common ground prior to a cabinet decision on Oct. 17 on its new legislation to replace the Antiterrorism Special Measures Law.

DPJ Secretary General Hatoyama said in a press conference on Oct.

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12: "The suspicion that Japanese oil was used in the Iraq war has become extremely strong." He then indicated he would focus attention exclusively on this issue in debate in the Upper House, as well.

The DPJ also asked the government at a meeting of the House of Representatives Budget Committee to invoke its right to investigate state affairs to disclose the truth of these allegations: (1) The US aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk was deployed after provided with MSDF fuel from an US supply ship just before the Iraq war broke out; and (2) The US Aegis vessel Paul Hamilton participated in the Iraq war after being directly refueled by the MSDF. If the main opposition party seeks the investigation right in the Upper House, in which the opposition bloc holds a majority, the right will likely be invoked. By pursuing the government over the allegation of diversion of MSDF-supplied oil, Minshuto aims to buttress the basis for its opposition to the MSDF refueling operation and also to delay the start of deliberations on the new antiterrorism legislation.

Meanwhile, the government and ruling camp envision this timetable for the new legislation: (1) Give an explanation on its contents in a Lower House plenary session on Oct. 19; and (2) start deliberations at a Lower House Antiterrorism Special Committee meeting to be held after Oct. 22. Prime Minister Fukuda intends to provide information on the diversion allegation, in a bid to begin deliberations on the new legislation at an early date, but no prospects are in sight for resolving a deadlock in the situation.

(18) IPCC has issued warning, based on scientific facts, which has led to policy measures: International opinion on global warming; Japanese researchers make major contribution

YOMIURI (Page 2) (Full)
October 13, 2007

Groups of scientists warn of global warming. One politician has responded to the warning. Behind the decision to award former US Vice President Al Gore and the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) with the Nobel Peace Prize are changes in international opinion on the threat from global warming over the past several years. In the face of abnormal weather and resultant disasters, people have become aware that global warming is an immediate threat.

Shuzo Nishioka, an advisor to the National Institute for Environmental Studies, which has taken part in the IPCC right from its establishment, is pleased with the decision, noting, "Our job of issuing warnings against climate change, based on scientific facts, and linking it to policy measures was recognized." Concerning global warming becoming more of a reality than ever before due to frequent droughts and heat waves, he underscored, "We regret that we did not issue a strong warning much earlier. I hope the award this time will create the opportunity for the entire world to take action toward a low-carbon society."

The IPCC has compiled a report every five years or so since the first report in 1990. The reports have a major impact on international talks, which have resulted in the Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted in 1992, and the Kyoto Protocol, adopted in 1997..

Following recommendations by governments of various countries, reports have been written by researchers chosen by the IPCC. More

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than 3,000 scientists, including referees, cooperated in the writing of reports.

Reports are in the end adopted at a meeting attended by officials of various countries. It has been a usual practice to adopt soft words in expressing threats because of scientific uncertainties. However, the fourth report, adopted prior to international talks on a post-Kyoto Protocol framework, pointed out that there is a strong possibility of human activities having brought about global warming. It was written, based on a detailed computer-assisted analysis. The use of more in-depth expressions in the fourth report than those employed in previous reports has in effect put an end to the conflict between science and politics.

Kazuo Matsushita, professor at the Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, noted, "The IPCC's activities, which have served as a bridge between science and society, have led to the award this time. Tough negotiations are expected in the process of creating a post-Kyoto framework. The award given this time may have a message, 'Think of global warming as an issue concerning human beings, moving away from national interests.'"

Japanese researchers made major contributions to the compilation of IPCC reports. About 30 Japanese were chosen as representative writers responsible for controlling all working groups in compiling the fourth report. They were responsible for putting together theses sent in from all over the world.

In particular, Japanese researchers have led research on global warming throughout the world since the launching of the Earth Simulator, registered as the world's fastest supercomputer. The fourth report provided data serving as a base for the in-depth expression that there is a strong possibility of human activity having caused global warming. Akio Kito, chief of the Weather Research Department of the Meteorological Research Institute, who serves as a representative writer, said, "I think that Japanese research using high-performance computers will make more contributions in the future."

SCHIEFFER